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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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31 JUL 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable Henry A. Kissinger
Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs

SUBJECT: CIA Information Provided Senator
Bentsen on Soviet Funding of
Portuguese Communist Party

1. I am sending you the material below to set the record straight on what this Agency stated to Senator Bentsen on the subject of Soviet financial support for the Portuguese Communist Party, and on what we have received and disseminated in official classified reports and memoranda.

2. On 17 July a staff aide to Senator Lloyd Bentsen of Texas called our Legislative Counsel to inquire about press reports purporting to reveal specific sums of money provided the Portuguese Communist Party by the Soviet Union. She cited one press story that claimed ten million dollars a month was being given the Portuguese party by the Soviets.

3. On the basis of careful research by a knowledgeable analyst, the aide was informed that this Agency has no direct knowledge of sums actually furnished nor any reliable data on which to base an estimate. We noted that press reports we had seen cited sums as low as three million dollars and as high as fourteen million dollars a month going from Moscow to Lisbon at various times, but we declined to speculate which, if any, of these figures might be accurate. We specifically cautioned that the Agency has neither reliable information nor firm estimates of its own.

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